

Rain Gardens: Reuse Stormwater in Your Yard

There are several ways that you can reduce runoff and better use stormwater in your yard while ensuring proper drainage. One relatively easy and attractive method is a rain garden.

Stormwater refers to rain and snow melt. Stormwater runoff from your roof, driveway and other hard surfaces in your yard is typically directed towards the street and into the municipal storm drain system. This stormwater runoff, can pick up harmful substances such as road salt, pet waste, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers and oils. The water then flows to nearby catch basins and then into local water bodies, where it can harm water quality and aquatic habitat. Capture the rain before it gets to our rivers by planting a rain garden.

Find out how you can build a rain garden from the resources below.

Rain Garden resources:

- ♻️ [Rain Gardens: A Way to Improve Water Quality, UMASS Extension:](https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/rain-gardens-way-to-improve-water-quality)
<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/rain-gardens-way-to-improve-water-quality>
- ♻️ [Rain Gardens, UNH Extension:](https://extension.unh.edu/Sustainable-Landscapes-and-Turf/Rain-Gardens)
<https://extension.unh.edu/Sustainable-Landscapes-and-Turf/Rain-Gardens>
- ♻️ [RainGardens, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs:](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/raingarden.pdf)
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/raingarden.pdf>
- ♻️ [A Design Guide for Connecticut & New England Homeowners, U. Conn:](http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm)
<http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm>
- ♻️ [Rain Gardens - Using Spectacular Wetland Plantings to Reduce Runoff, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens:](http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/rain_gardens) http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/rain_gardens



For more information on Cambridge's Stormwater Management Program visit:

www.cambridgema.gov/Stormwater or contact Catherine Daly Woodbury at Cambridge DPW at 617.349.4818